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Thursday, November 15,  
2012



News  
worth  
sharing.



## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

Members of the public check out a lighted scale model of the Halifax Central Library at a public meeting at Pier 21 on Wednesday evening. The building will feature architectural details that incorporate Halifax's history, said one of its lead architects. Story, page 3. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Labour peace at Shipyard

**New deal?** Union president says he's happy with tentative deal and will be looking for membership approval Nov. 25

Workers have been without a contract since December 2011.

Irving Shipbuilding spokeswoman Deborah Page said the company is encouraged by the news and is looking forward to moving the process ahead.

Metro spoke to a union member outside the shipyards Wednesday who said it's been a difficult year for workers who have been anxious for a resolution.

"The morale has been low while we're waiting for this to come through," she said. "Wages and benefits are a major concern, but so is trade flexibility.... We will all be happy to see this come to an end."

Conciliator Ken Zwicker was hired to aid negotiations after talks between the two parties broke down in May.

Risser said his input was key in reaching the new agreement. "We worked really hard for this," he said. "We've put up a great fight. Now we're in the process of contacting our membership and we'll see what happens." ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

The union representing more than 1,000 workers at the Halifax Shipyard has reached a tentative agreement with Irving after nearly a year of negotiations.

Karl Risser, president of the Canadian Auto Workers-Marine Workers Federation Local 1, said the deal was reached late Tuesday.

The details will be presented to union members for approval at a meeting Nov. 25, he said Wednesday.

"The committee has worked extremely hard to make sure that we maximize the benefits of our workers so we can attract and retain the skilled trades we need to build these ships," he said.

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## Tearing up the turf. School field off limits to kids after vandalism

The principal of a Sackville elementary school says it's "very frustrating and upsetting" that the field behind her school was recently ripped apart by vandals on a joyride.

Karla Wolfe of Hillside Park Elementary School said students had only recently started using the field after parents rallied to install the drainage infrastructure needed to keep the grass dry.

"The parents have been working so hard to improve things around here," said Wolfe on Wednesday.

"We were just starting to use the field more often because it wasn't always wet, and now it's all torn up. You feel like you do a little bit and then get knocked back down."

About a week ago, someone managed to get a vehicle onto the field behind the Hillside Avenue school, tearing up the grass and leaving deep ruts in the ground.

Doug Hadley, spokesman for the Halifax Regional School Board, said via email that police are investigating and HRM will look at repairing the field in the spring.

Until then, kids won't be able to use the field.

Wolfe said the city is looking into installing a post so that another vehicle can't drive onto the field.

ALY THOMSON/METRO

### Quoted

**The vandals "did circles out there. It was all grass, and now it's all muddy."**

Karla Wolfe, principal of Hillside Park Elementary School on the field that parents recently worked hard to improve for students

## Public Gardens. Park to open gates over winter

Staff at the Public Gardens will allow "limited" daytime visits over the winter season, if weather permits.

HRM says that although the gardens' gates will be closed to daily visits during the season, the gardens will be open by chance Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If the gates are open, the public is welcome to enter.

If gardens staff have obligations away from the Public Gardens, or if weather conditions make the paths dangerous, it will be closed. METRO



The Halifax Public Gardens will be open when possible over the winter. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## 311. HRM information line loses a few digits

Information on a host of municipal services is now just three digits away.

Beginning Thursday, HRM residents can dial 311 for information on non-emergency local services and programs.

That includes anything from bylaw complaints and civic-event information to garbage-collection schedules. Citizens should still dial 911 for emergencies.

The line will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, although calls related to illegally parked vehicles, ani-

### New number

The 311 line is intended to replace 490-4000, though that number will still work.

mal services, municipal operations and wastewater service issues will be accepted outside of those hours.

The city said the service will be available in more than 150 languages thanks to a telephone-interpretation service. ALY THOMSON/METRO

# City previews 'iconic' new library building

**Central Library.** Architects to incorporate Halifax history into design



ALY THOMSON  
halifax@metronews.ca

One of the lead architects of the city's new Central Library calls the building "iconic," with architectural details that incorporate Halifax's history.

"It's expressing the diversity of society," said Morten Schmidt, lead architect of the Denmark-based schmidt hammer lassen architects.

More than 300 residents got their first glimpse inside the \$55-million library during a virtual tour at Pier 21's Heritage Hall on Wednesday.

The state-of-the-art library, currently under construction at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street, will feature a 300-seat theatre with a view of one of the building's outside plazas, as well as a café

and spaces for kids.

The fifth floor — dubbed the Halifax living room — visually connects both the harbour and Citadel Hill and is symbolic of Halifax's history.

That scenic space was previously slated for offices and administration.

"People were not happy with that concept," said Kendra Barnes of Halifax, who attended all the public-consultation meetings over the past two years. "They actually took what we demanded and incorporated it into the plan ... and that's awesome."

A notable feature of the glass-clad building is that one floor's exterior walls are tinted orange. "From everywhere in Halifax, you will be able to actually see that orange disc," Schmidt said. "So it's sort of an iconic effect that we've built into it."

George Cotaras, president of Halifax-based Fowler Bauld and Mitchell, said the building will also have efficient heating and cooling systems and will collect rain water from the roof to flush toilets.



Three-dimensional interior designs of the Halifax Central Library were unveiled at a public meeting at Pier 21 on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 NEWS



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# New provincial regulations don't do enough for tenants: Advocate

**Not far enough.**  
Dalhousie Legal Aid rep says legislation protecting tenants often toothless



**ANDREW RANKIN**  
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

New legislation designed to protect tenants doesn't go

far enough, says a senior law student working at Dalhousie Legal Aid Services.

"As the legislation stands now, there's a disadvantage favouring landlords," said Dylan Hayward. "It has to strike an appropriate balance and I don't think it does right now."

The new provincial legislation, which takes effect Thursday, means that tenants are entitled to several new rights, including the ability to

pull out of a fixed-term lease for health reasons, as well as the option of an automatic lease renewal.

Hayward says the new rules make it harder for landlords to evict tenants — but the absence of protective measures like rent review means landlords can still enact rent hikes to get rid of a tenant.

Hayward says the system often works against tenants, especially low-income renters.

For example, he says, if a landlord decides to unlawfully keep a tenant's damage deposit, the process to get it back is costly, time-consuming and usually ineffective — so much so, Hayward says, that no one has been charged in the last 20 years.

The new legislation will enable tenants to reclaim costs associated with getting their damage deposit back, but Hayward said it should follow B.C.'s model, where

landlords must pay twice the damage deposit if found guilty.

The bottom line, he says, is there has to be an even playing field.

"You're in a precarious position as a tenant and in a lot of cases landlords will treat your home as their property and you as their guest," he said. "But it's the tenant's home. That needs to be protected and I don't think it is right now."

## Some of the new rules

- If rent is 15 days late, the landlord can give 15-day notice to quit.
- The maximum sublet fee is \$75.
- In the absence of a fixed-term lease, the lease gets automatically renewed.



## Halifax-based HMCS St. John's doesn't need to visit the town of her name for fog

The HMCS St. John's floats on a foggy Bedford Basin, near the foot of the MacKay Bridge, on Wednesday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Pictou. Projects in MacKay's riding get thousands in funding

Defence Minister Peter MacKay has announced that three recreational facilities in his Nova Scotia riding are getting more than \$600,000 in federal funds.

The MP for Central Nova issued a statement Wednesday saying the money will be used by the Hector Arena in Pictou, the New Glasgow Marina and the Trenton Minor Sports Centre. The money comes from Ottawa's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund.

MacKay says the federal



**Peter MacKay** JEFF HARPER/METRO

government has invested more than \$400 million in his riding since 2006. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Company CEO who agreed to remove MV Miner is 'erratic,' premier says

A salvager said he was walking away from the removal of a derelict ship off Cape Breton on Wednesday, prompting Nova Scotia's premier to brand his behaviour as "erratic."

Darrell Dexter's comments about Bennington Group CEO Abe Shah were the latest in an ongoing spat between the provincial government and the New York-based company over its efforts to salvage the MV Miner.

### Quoted

**"You had a guy who periodically would flip out to the press and complain or essentially make statements that were not representative of the work being done."**

Premier Darrell Dexter on Bennington Group CEO Abe Shah.

Although Dexter expressed frustration with the lack of progress to remove the vessel, he said he wasn't surprised by the latest development.

The 230-metre bulk car-

rier ran aground off Scatarie Island in September 2011 as it was being towed to Turkey to be scrapped. Shah said in an interview he was walking away from the work following a meeting held with

provincial officials on Tuesday.

He said he was frustrated with bureaucratic hurdles and he wanted the province to pay his expenses, including a \$40,000 increase in his insurance premium he says was the result of a provincial stop-work order on Oct. 12.

"I've been here for about seven months and for about three months the bureaucracy was so big," said Shah.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**





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## Vehicle stolen

## Police release suspect photos in daycare break-in

Police are asking the public to help find a man who burglarized a local childcare centre.

A release from Halifax Regional Police says the man broke into the St. Joseph's Children's Centre on Monastery Lane overnight between Oct. 25 and 26.

He took car keys, broke into several vehicles in the parkade and stole several items stored there before stealing a vehicle.

The vehicle was recovered later.

The man is described as white, in his mid-twenties, with a medium build and short-cropped hair.

Anyone with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers.

METRO



The man wanted in a break-in at St. Joseph's Children's Centre is seen in an image from surveillance cameras released by Halifax police. CONTRIBUTED

## Exchange of gunfire

## Police seeking two suspects after Brunswick Street shooting

Police in Halifax are looking for two suspects after a shooting on Brunswick Street.

Witnesses reported hearing gunshots around 3 p.m. Tuesday near Barrington and Cornwallis Street. Police have now confirmed that two men exchanged fire on Brunswick Street.

So far, there are no reported injuries and investigators say it is not considered a random act. Police are looking for two suspects, one described as a black man in his mid-to-late 20s, five-foot-nine-inches with a thin build. At the time of the shooting, he was wearing a light grey hoodie, a black scarf over his face, a black puffy vest and light blue jeans.

The second suspect is described as a light-skinned black man in his early 20s, wearing a black skull cap and grey sweat pants. METRO

## Attempted murder

## Second, third man charged in connection with taxi shooting

Halifax police have now charged two more men in connection with a recent shooting.

Someone fired several shots from a small silver car at a taxi travelling north on Robie near McCulley around 2:15 a.m. on Nov. 3.

No one was hurt.

Kirk Michael Wright, 24, of Halifax was arrested Wednesday and appeared in court facing more than a dozen charges that include attempted murder.

Everett Douglas MacNeil, 24, of Halifax was also charged in connection with the incident. He was in custody on an unrelated matter.

Kyle Douglas Shipley was arrested and charged Nov. 11. He's scheduled to return to court on Friday.

METRO

## Over 12 charges

The three suspects face more than a dozen charges, including attempted murder, assault with a weapon and various firearm offences.

## Deported

## Elderly friends forced from the country after long immigration fight

An immigration lawyer in Nova Scotia says there is little hope left that an American woman will be able to return to Canada after being deported to the U.S.

Lee Cohen says his 73-year-old client, Nancy Inferrera, was headed to the U.S. border Wednesday, along with her lifelong friend.

Cohen says Inferrera came to Canada in 2008 to live with and take care of her 83-year-old friend, Mildred Sanford.

The pair were headed to the border from their home in Guysborough County after numerous applications to stay in the country were rejected.

Cohen says the only possible remedy left would be an intervention by the federal immigration minister.

He says they'll consider a special application for a temporary-residence permit, but says that could take almost a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Lumber spill snarls traffic near Bedford

Workers on Wednesday clean up a load of lumber that was spilled onto highway 102 after a crash near Bedford earlier in the day. The highway was closed in both directions, disrupting traffic for many hours. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Case of man accused of confining Halifax teen adjourned until next month

## Brief appearance by accused. David Leblanc faces seven charges

The case of a man accused of sexually assaulting and confining a 16-year-old boy in southern Nova Scotia has been adjourned until next month.

David James Leblanc made a brief appearance Wednesday in Bridgewater provincial court, where he was wheeled into the room with the help of two officers.

Defence lawyer Mike Tay-

lor says his client recently had surgery on his feet, which were hurt by frostbite before his arrest.

The RCMP launched an investigation last month after a woman in rural Upper Chelsea reported that a frightened boy showed up at her doorstep seeking help.

The woman told police the boy was barefoot and chained at his wrists and ankles.

Police later issued arrest warrants for Leblanc and a co-accused, 31-year-old Wayne Alan Cunningham, whose body was found in northern Ontario near where Leblanc

was arrested.

Foul play is not suspected in his death.

Leblanc was arrested Sept. 30 in Greenstone, Ont., after officers received a report of a man wandering without shoes and wearing light clothing in near-freezing temperatures.

He was flown to Halifax after receiving medical treatment.

The 47-year-old man faces seven charges, including sexual assault, sexual assault causing bodily harm, forcible confinement and kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



David Leblanc, 47, will remain in custody until another court appearance in Bridgewater in December. METRO FILE

## Serious Incident Team to investigate shooting death in Lunenburg Co.

Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating an incident in which a man killed himself as police tried to negotiate with him.

In a statement Wednesday, police say RCMP members in Mill Cove responded

to a call on Monday about a man who told people he was going to take his life.

Police say they found the man alone in his yard with a gun and spoke to him for about 30 minutes.

Police say one of the officers was talking to the

man on the phone when he fatally shot himself.

They say that in accordance with the Police Act, the RCMP referred the case to the response team to lead the investigation.

The team is asking anyone who witnessed the in-

cident to call 902-424-2010.

The group is responsible for investigating all serious incidents that involve police in the province and is under the leadership of an independent civilian director.

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### It's almost like Real Housewives

David Petraeus sent out signals he'd like to stay on for President Barack Obama's second term. But suddenly he was resigning over an extramarital affair. It's a scandal almost like Real Housewives. Follow this cast of characters:

#### David Petraeus

A four-star general praised for his leadership in Iraq and Afghanistan. Became CIA chief in 2011. Shocked the U.S. by admitting an extramarital affair with Paula Broadwell.



#### Paula Broadwell

Author, married mom and Petraeus's biographer. Their affair was exposed after Broadwell sent emails to Jill Kelley, warning her to stay away from Petraeus, officials said.



#### Jill Kelley

Surgeon's wife, mom of three kids, friend of Petraeus and his wife, Holly. A party hostess and social liaison for leaders of the U.S. military's Central Command in Tampa, Fla.



#### John Allen

A four-star Marine general, a top U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Married. The Pentagon is investigating emails involving Allen and Kelley. Some were "flirtatious," say officials.



#### The shirtless FBI man

And then there's the FBI agent to whom Kelley first complained about disturbing emails. He's been named by the New Times as Frederick Humphries, 47. It's alleged he once sent her shirtless photos of himself. He passed her complaint to others for investigation.

# Four-star follies shock U.S.

**Sex scandal.** The Petraeus affair grows like a soap-opera plot but, says Obama, poses no security threat — yet

U.S. President Barack Obama made his first public comments Wednesday on the growing scandal around two top four-star generals.

Was national security threatened?

No, said a wary Obama. "I have no evidence at this point that classified information was disclosed that in any way could have any impact on our national security."

But he's reserving judgment on how the FBI has handled the investigation that didn't reach his desk until after last week's election.

Meanwhile, the tangled tale that exposed one general's career-ending extramarital affair and another's questionable relationship with a Florida socialite was ballooning to soap-opera proportions. Four developments:

**One:** A U.S. official said the army has suspended the high security clearance of

#### Roadblock

Obama had hoped to use Wednesday's news conference, his first since his re-election, to build support for his economic proposals.

- **Stymied.** Instead, the scandal threatens to derail his agenda and complicate planning during a critical time in the Afghanistan war effort.

Paula Broadwell, the woman who had an affair with CIA director David Petraeus, triggering his resignation.

**Two:** With media camped at her home, a Florida socialite tied to the scandal asked police for diplomatic protection. Jill Kelley cited her status as honorary consul general for South Korea.

**Three:** Kelley's pass to MacDill Air Force Base has been suspended. Kelley now must report to the visitor centre and sign in.

**Four:** At least five current and former U.S. generals have been reprimanded or investigated for possible misconduct in the past two weeks, reports said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



President Barack Obama steps up to the podium at his Washington, D.C., news conference Wednesday. He said of the Petraeus sex scandal: "I have a lot of confidence generally in the FBI, and they have a difficult job. It's best right now to see how this process unfolds." CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Too close

### Why a bio can lead to a love affair

The love affair between David Petraeus and Paula Broadwell is an extreme example of the closeness between biographers and their subjects, experts say.

"As with psychiatrists, same with biographers, you shouldn't sleep with your subject," said Blake Bailey, biographer of authors John Cheever and Richard Yates.

Years spent together, as Broadwell had with Petraeus in Afghanistan, can make the biographer's experience intensely personal, sexual or not.

Doris Kearns Goodwin was an aide to Lyndon Johnson who sometimes took notes while the ex-president lay in her bed, a relationship she called platonic and described in her book, *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Outrage remains weeks after Border Patrol shooting



With the border fence looming above them, pedestrians cross a street in Nogales, Mexico, near the spot where a 16-year-old boy was killed by Border Patrol gunfire. The shooting sparked an outcry. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pair of Mexican drug smugglers in camouflage pants, bundles of marijuana strapped to their backs, scaled a fence in the middle of the night, slipped quietly into the United States and dashed into the darkness.

U.S. Border Patrol agents and local police gave chase on foot — from bushes to behind homes, then back to the fence.

The conflict escalated. Authorities say they were being pelted with rocks.

One agent responded by aiming a gun into Mexico and firing multiple shots, killing a 16-year-old boy whose family says was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The Oct. 10 shooting has prompted renewed outcry over the Border Patrol's use-

#### Targets

- The U.S. Border patrol says sometimes lethal force is necessary.
- It says its agents were assaulted with rocks 249 times in the 2012 fiscal year, causing injuries ranging from minor abrasions to major head contusions.

of-force policies and angered human-rights activists and Mexican officials who believe the incident has become part of a disturbing trend along the border — gunning down rock-throwers rather than using non-lethal weapons.

The Department of Home-

land Security Office of Inspector General has launched a probe of the agency's policies, the first such look at the tactics of an organization with 18,500 agents deployed to the Southwest region near the Mexican border alone.

The Mexican government has pleaded with the U.S. to change its ways.

And the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has questioned the excessive use of force by Border Patrol.

At least 16 people have been killed by agents along the Mexico border since 2010, eight in cases where federal authorities said they were being attacked with rocks, said Vicki Gaubeca, director of the ACLU's Regional Center for Border Rights.

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People gather around the wreckage of the car in which Ahmed Jabari, head of the Hamas military wing in Gaza City, was killed on Wednesday. ADEL HANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Israel kills Hamas military chief, warns of broader operation

## Pillar of Defence.

After assassination, Israel says ground operation in Gaza is strong possibility

Israel carried out a blistering offensive of more than 20 air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, assassinating Hamas's military commander and targeting the armed group's training facilities and rocket launchers in Israel's most intense attack on the territory in nearly four years.

Israel said the air strikes, launched in response to days of rocket fire out of Hamas-ruled Gaza, were the beginning of a broader operation against the Islamic militants code-named "Pillar of Defence." Israeli defence officials said a ground operation was a strong possibility in the coming days, though they stressed no decisions had been made and much would

depend on Hamas's reaction. There were no immediate signs of extraordinary troop deployments along the border.

The attack that killed Hamas's Ahmed Jabari came at a time when Israel seems to be under fire from all directions. Relations have been deteriorating with Egypt's new Islamist government, Egypt's lawless Sinai desert has become a staging ground for militant attacks on Israel, and the Syrian civil war has begun to spill over Israel's northern border. Earlier this week, Israel fired back at Syria — for the first time in nearly 40 years — after stray mortar fire landed in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

With at least 10 Palestinians dead, including two young children, Wednesday's offensive was certain to set off a new round of heavy fighting with Gaza militants, who have built up a formidable arsenal of rockets and missiles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Violence

In a nationwide address, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel could no longer stand repeated attacks on its southern towns.

- **Impact.** Days of rocket fire have heavily disrupted life for some one million people in the region, cancelling school and forcing residents to remain indoors.

- **Escalation.** The Israeli military said it was ready, if necessary, to send ground troops into Gaza. The defence officials who said a ground operation was likely in the coming days spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive military plans.



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\*Comparing the shared HSPA+ network available from TELUS to the public disclosure of 4G network coverage of other provincial service providers for October 2012. © 2012 TELUS.



Indian national Savita Halappanavar died after being refused a termination of her pregnancy at a hospital in Galway, Ireland. HANDOUT/GETTY IMAGES

# Irish abortion debate flares

**Fading health.** A woman suffering a miscarriage was refused an abortion and died in hospital from blood poisoning

The debate over legalizing abortion in Ireland flared Wednesday after the government confirmed that a

woman in the midst of a miscarriage was refused an abortion and died in an Irish hospital after suffering from blood poisoning.

Prime Minister Enda Kenny said he was awaiting findings from three investigations into the death of Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year-old Indian woman who was 17 weeks pregnant.

Her case highlighted the legal limbo in which pregnant women facing severe

## Legal in England

The vast bulk of Irish women wanting abortions, an estimated 4,000 per year, simply travel next door to England, where abortion has been legal on demand since 1967. But that option is difficult for women in failing health.

Catholic Ireland.

Halappanavar's husband, Praveen, said doctors at University Hospital Galway in western Ireland determined she was miscarrying within hours of her hospitalization for severe pain on Sunday, Oct. 21.

He said over the next three days, doctors refused their requests for an abortion to combat her surging pain and fading health.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

health problems can find themselves in predominantly

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## The long arm of the law

Riot police apprehend a protester during a general strike in Madrid on Wednesday. Spain's General Workers' Union said the nationwide stoppage, the second this year, was being observed by nearly all workers in the automobile, energy, shipbuilding and construction industries.

DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Government defends exclusion of Carol Todd at bullying summit

**Inspired by her daughter.** Mother of Amanda Todd said she only wanted to listen, watch and absorb the information



**PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS**  
Metro in Vancouver

The B.C. government is defending its decision to leave out Carol Todd from an anti-bullying summit that was inspired by her daughter Amanda's tragic death.

Education Minister Don McRae told reporters Wednesday that two experts on bullying and anti-bullying response — Theresa Campbell and Kevin Cameron — expressed concern that Todd's presence could pose risks for the students or young adults.

"They expressed concern that if Mrs. Todd were to attend



Amanda Todd FACEBOOK.COM

with the young people that the risk for unintended consequence was there," he said.

Cameron, the executive director of the Canadian Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response, said they wanted a lower-anxiety forum focused on bullying and not on trauma.

He also advised the ministry to meet Todd beforehand to

## Feeling snubbed

"If you're going to mention my daughter's name, then I would think it would've been nice if the parents were invited."

Carol Todd, whose daughter Amanda took her own life early last month.

discuss the issues that her presence could have both for her and the young participants.

"It was an understanding from prior experience with high-profile traumas that I have dealt with, many parents want to be present, feel they can, and in the end ... they wished they had never said yes because they weren't able to manage their emotion and it was too soon after the traumatic incident."

The ERASE bullying summit was held Tuesday and gathered more than 100 students, educators and experts to talk about ways to combat bullying.

## 'Intelligence source'

PCO spent \$463K monitoring ethnic media

Citizenship and Immigration Canada isn't the only federal department spending hundreds of thousands of dollars keeping a keen eye on the country's ethnic media. The Privy Council Office, the bureaucracy that supports the prime minister, spent \$463,300 last January on a two-year contract with the same ethnic media monitoring company that Citizenship has paid almost \$750,000 over the past three years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Liberal race. Ex-MP Martha Hall Findlay seeks federal leadership ... again

The federal Liberal leadership race has another high-profile candidate.

Former MP Martha Hall Findlay, who also sought the party's top job in 2006, came forward Wednesday on the first official day of the leadership campaign.

"In 2006, there were some who questioned my run for leadership. But soon most were calling it gutsy. Before long people were coming up to me all the time to say how much I inspired them," Hall Findlay said as she made her announcement in Calgary.

"We need to take on (NDP Leader) Thomas Mulcair right

where it counts and where he's the weakest — the economy. We need to take on (Prime Minister) Stephen Harper, take the fight to him, not just wait and react defensively to the next round of attack ads."

Hall Findlay joins Justin Trudeau, who announced his candidacy six weeks ago, and four others.

They include Toronto lawyer Deborah Coyne, Vancouver Crown prosecutor Alex Burton, Ottawa lawyer David Bertschi and David Merner, former president of the party's British Columbia wing. The Liberals are to choose a new leader in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Martha Hall Findlay announces that she will be a candidate in the federal Liberal leadership race during a press conference in Calgary on Wednesday.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Facebook prompts delight, disgust with couples pages

## Forced togetherness.

Users can't opt out of new mandate that establishes separate page for listed couples

Facebook gives and Facebook takes away, version 3.0.

The global behemoth of social media has introduced an automatic "couples" page that has triggered the same instant revulsion and joy of its past changes.

Facebook introduced the "couples" page last Thursday as "a new look for the Friendship page." If you and someone you are in a relationship with list each other by name in your respective your statuses, Facebook has already created a page just for the two of you. To see it, go to facebook.com/us.

The page collects all of your joint tagged pictures, lists your mutual friends and tracks your shared posts.

"Makes me want to retch," Emma Barnett, women's editor



An example of the controversial new couples pages. SCREENSHOT

of Britain's Daily Telegraph, felt compelled to say.

"This is super lame. I am not a combined unit with my loved one," wrote Liz Remp of Ann Arbor, Mich., on Facebook.

"If this signals an end to all the JohnDoe JaneDoe accounts, I'm all for it," said Gabriel Crutchfield of Knoxville, Tenn.

A Facebook page popular in Hong Kong, Profiles for

Couples, has been lobbying for this very "road to virtual unity" since 2009.

Couple-page fan Tiffany McGee of Cedartown, Ga., joined the groundswell in 2010, ex-

## Edgerank

Facebook is often accused of needless meddling. In September, the company strengthened its filter for old or irrelevant posts.

- One agency discovered the reach of 15,380 of its posts had dropped by half after the changes.
- The wound was re-opened Monday when a Scottish developer revealed a workaround.

plaining "It seems easier to me to have a page with my husband. His friends are my friends and vice-versa! It would be nice just to have one page to edit :)"

As with other Facebook mandates, there is no opt-out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What do you think of Facebook "couple" pages? Tweet your thoughts at: @metrohalifax



## Inuktitut. Inuit people missing STI terminology

It burns. It itches. It stings and it's sore.

The doctor tells you it's chlamydia, but how can you fully understand what that means if your language doesn't have the right words?

In Canada's 53 Inuit communities, where more than 35,000 people speak Inuktitut as a first language, the dearth of specific terms and phrases relating to sexually transmitted infections and diseases like HIV-AIDS is seen as a barrier to public health.

That's why Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada has released a glossary of terms to fill in the blanks.

The organization decided to address the troublesome sexual semantics after the issue was raised at a health forum in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in 2009. Even words for major diseases lacked clarity, said Geri Bailey, Pauktutit's manager of health policy and programs.

"Cancer and HIV translate the same way in some dialects: You have a terminal illness and you're going to die," she said.

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# Prentice calls for clarity on state-owned investment

**Nexen deal.** Ex-Tory cabinet minister says controversy has been building for years

Former Conservative cabinet minister Jim Prentice says strict rules on governance and investment transparency are needed if state-owned enterprises are allowed to move into Canada, but that the country cannot afford to turn its back on such opportunities.

In a speech to the Oil and Money 2012 conference in London, Prentice said current turbulence over investments by state-owned enterprises in Canada may have caught some in the international community by surprise.

However, Prentice, now a senior executive with Canada Imperial Bank of Commerce, said the controversy has been building for years. It recently came to a head with a couple of major takeover deals — including the \$15.2-billion bid by state-owned China National Overseas Oil Corp for Nexen Inc.

The bid, made last August, is still under review by Ottawa under the Investment Canada Act, which requires that major takeovers by foreign concerns are of “net benefit” to Canada.

More recently, the federal government turned thumbs down on a \$6-billion offer by Malaysia’s state-owned oil company, Petronas, for Canada’s Progress Energy Resources. Petronas still hopes that deal will eventually be approved.

“This is a pivotal time for

## Quoted

**“This is a pivotal time for the Canadian government.”**

Jim Prentice, former Conservative cabinet minister, in a speech to the Oil and Money 2012 conference

the Canadian government,” Prentice told his audience while adding that Canada “must and will remain open for business and that means open to foreign investment.”

Prentice said it would be “patently unwise” to turn down investment from countries like China, “particularly in circumstances where the transactions do not imperil Canadian values or environmental and labour laws,” he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



## Canadians’ summer spending spree

Did the warm weather loosen our collective purse strings? According to a report released Wednesday, Canadian debt loads grew at their fastest pace in two years during the summer — an alarming rate, given that officials continue to warn consumers that household spending is out of control. Credit-reporting agency TransUnion’s latest quarterly analysis of Canadian credit trends found average consumer non-mortgage debt jumped 4.6 per cent year-over-year in the third quarter to an average of \$26,768. **GETTY IMAGES FILE**

## Hollinger. Former exec reaches plea agreement with OSC

Conrad Black’s former business partner David Radler has been barred from acting as an officer or director of a public company in Ontario for his role in the fraud at Hollinger newspaper group, but has escaped financial penalty.

The plea agreement approved Wednesday saw the Ontario Securities Commission withdraw all charges against Radler.

Radler, who lives in Vancouver and oversees a privately held newspaper group, was not at the 15-minute hearing in downtown Toronto. “Mr. Radler is moving on with his life,” said his lawyer, David J. Martin.

The ban is indefinite, although Radler can apply to have it reviewed at any time.

OSC Commissioner Christo-

pher Portner said he was “satisfied” with the joint-agreement and that it kept in line with the regulator’s mandate of protecting Ontario’s capital markets.

Radler is also prohibited from becoming a registrant, employee, director or officer of a registrant or an affiliated public company in Ontario. He must also refrain from directly or indirectly trading or acquiring securities related to Hollinger Inc.

Wednesday’s deal is related to charges originally filed in March 2005 against Radler, Black, and Hollinger Inc., which at one time controlled a newspaper empire that operated in Canada, the United States, Britain and elsewhere.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Market Minute



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# A PENCHANT FOR CATS



**HE SAYS...**  
John Mazerolle  
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I have a deep, dark secret to reveal, as difficult to cough up as a hairball: I like house cats. In this world of chronic cat snugglers and billionaire Instagram founders, that might

not seem like a source of shame. But embracing kitties goes against all my instincts; it's as off-putting to me as stroking a tabby in the wrong direction.

I've always said I hate cats. Even my Twitter bio says so, and if you can't trust Twitter (the microblog of record) what can you trust?

But as I age my kitty-rage is abating, purr by purr. My frosty feelings toward felines have been perfectly valid, of course. It's well documented that cats care more about themselves than us, and I haven't dealt well with that constant level of rejection.

If there was a Lassie/Littlest Hobo-type show called The Wandering Cat, he'd just come across a person trapped in a burning car or a kid stuck down a well every week, then chuckle to himself and move on.

Like most humans, I require more validation than cats can offer. If you ever needed an argument against the religious belief that everything on Earth is here for the benefit of man, look no further than Mr. Cat. We've clearly been put here for him. God is a cat.

And an Old Testament God at that: Make no mistake, kitties are killers. Everything they do — the constant cleaning, the claw maintenance, the yarn-based paw-eye-co-ordination training — is done to make them the most efficient instrument of slaughter possible. I can only assume their instinct to lie on keyboards comes from a long history of sending bird and mice families letters of condolence.

And, fair or not, I've always compared felines to dogs, whose whole purpose on Earth is to, a), make clear how incredibly excited they are to know you and, b), lick their nether regions with vigour. This probably also had hunting purposes once, but now it's pretty clear the dogs just enjoy crotch cleaning. I can get behind this.

I never gave cats a fair shake, because animal-rights groups say you shouldn't do that. But decades of nuzzles and leg rubs and purrs have reached me, I guess.

I still don't like aggressive cats — Siamese are clearly Satan-Cats — but I don't judge dogs based on pit bulls or humans based on the guy in the bank line picking his nose, so fair's fair.

There was never a Special Moment that put cats in my good books. It just happened, after years of surreptitious scratches behind the ear. It had always irked me that cats want to be in control, but I've decided to let them if it works out in the end.

I've learned to be the bigger pussy. It's what The Wandering Cat has taught me.



Like it or not, the kitty cat is king. Be wary of razor-sharp claws and superlative night vision. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

# Black eye in the night sky



TOURISM QUEENSLAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Watch the skies

### Lights out in Australia

Australia's first total solar eclipse in more than a decade was visible Wednesday. The spectacular event was watched by enthusiastic crowds, with more than 50,000 flocking to Queensland, the site of the best views.

The eclipse cast a 150-kilometre shadow over northern Australia, spreading darkness over the region, lasting over two minutes. **METRO**

## No. 1 eclipse fan



"I was thinking, 'Are we gonna see this?' And

we just had a fantastic display, it was just beautiful."

Terry Cuttle of the Astronomical Association of Queensland Cuttle is the most prominent local eclipse enthusiast. He has witnessed more than 10 of these events.

## One more left

This was the third of four eclipses in 2012, down from six in 2011.

- **May 20** — Annular solar eclipse. The moon partly covered the sun for more than three hours on a path visible from China, Japan and parts of North America.
- **June 4** — Partial lunar eclipse. Moon partly hidden and turned red by reflected sunlight. The best views were in

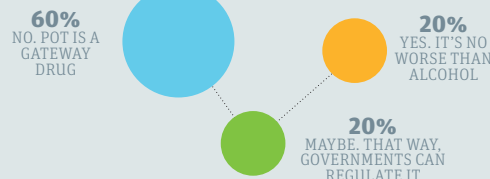
Western Canada.

- **Nov. 14** — Total solar eclipse. Travelled back to Nov. 13 as it finished close to the coast of South America. Lasted up to four minutes.
- **Nov. 28** — Penumbral lunar eclipse. The last eclipse will see the moon partly hidden by shadow and tinged red. Australia, East Asia and Hawaii will have the best viewing positions.



Register at [metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca) and take the quick poll

## Should Canada follow some U.S. states in legalizing marijuana?



## Twitter

**@AllenGalley:** #Halifax needs a snowstorm to put an end to this construction madness!

**@tay\_wright16:** I never thought I'd say I miss Halifax Academy's food.

**@MamaSidney:** Feeling deceived by the #Halifax weather. 17 degree skirt wearing weather yesterday, and frigid rain today. Make up your mind! #shiv-

ering

**@mattdagley:** The Halifax Public Gardens will be open all winter. Climate change is now official.

**@MorrisseyCarmen:** Hey #Halifax I call 911 for emergency and 411 when I don't know someone... what's up with the HRM 311, I call it to talk to our savage Major

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# There, there — let the sounds of Mother Mother comfort you

**The Sticks.** New album finds band lamenting the loss of real communication in today's world and love



**BACKSTAGE PASS**  
Jenna Conter  
halifax@metronews.ca

Vancouver's indie rock darlings, Mother Mother return to Halifax with their latest album, *The Sticks*. After appearing at major musical events that included the jazz festivals in Montreal and Vancouver, frontman Ryan Guldmond is humbled by the band's momentum.

"It's a real lucky shot having people choose to listen to your band and paying such close attention," he said. "It's very easy to keep doing because it means so much and when I look at the alternatives they really pale in comparison."

## Quoted

**"I remember the last time in Halifax we did two shows. They were both great. I just remember we could pull stuff from all the records and all the people were familiar. It's not like they were newbies to what was going on — it felt like old friends."**

Ryan Guldmond, Mother Mother frontman.



Mother Mother play Halifax Saturday. HANDOUT

Their fourth album commemorates the death of real communication and simple connective living, explained Guldmond in a recent interview.

He says it's dark subject matter but increasingly in the forefront of battles about relatable, softer subjects like love.

"Sometimes when you do stumble across an idea that resonates you're then driven to carry it out in a more conceptual fashion and that's what happened

with this album."

Tracks like *Let's Fall in Love*, examine the "bleak statistics" of finding love while *Love it Dissipates*, begins with sweet metaphors only to fall apart by the end of the score.

"That's what happens with love — poof, it's gone — where did it go? It's like you're looking for your keys and it's like 'Damn, did I leave them in the freezer?'" said Guldmond.

"When you lose something and you start look-

## Details

**When:** Saturday, November 17th @ 8:00 (Doors at 7:30)

**Where:** Forum Multi-purpose Centre

**Tickets:** \$30 advance / \$35 at the door [www.sonic-concerts.com](http://www.sonic-concerts.com)

...Like you just saw it the other day but where did it go?"

Guldmond enjoys bringing new material back to a receptive crowd like Halifax.

"That's something to look forward to — like when you can sit down with an old friend and have a conversation as a lineage," he said.

"There's a wink when you play an old song — an understanding — it's a special moment."

ing in the most ridiculous places.

"That's kind of like love."

2 SCENE



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# Hey Jude, it's not so bad — take repression — and make it better

**Anna Karenina.** Jude Law talks about being cuckolded and playing a man who's never been in touch with his feelings



**NED  
EHRBAR**  
Metro World News in Hollywood

In Joe Wright's imaginative take on *Anna Karenina*, Jude Law turns in a career-best performance as Alexei Karenin, the cuckolded husband of Tolstoy's titular heroine (played by Kiera Knightley). In our exclusive video, Law talks to Metro World News about playing repressed — and how his character is definitely not a wife-beater.

**I wanted to first of all talk about how you take on**

**a character who's so... I wouldn't say "repressed," but...**  
No, repressed is right (laughs).

**You're keeping every emotion inside. Is that frustrating to play?**

No, because the frustration when you're playing a part is not feeling that you're getting the right support or information from the director, and Joe [Wright] was really clear, and we talked endlessly in preparation about his repression and his severity and also his almost introspection. He's a man who thought his way through life and didn't feel. Like, he had to thaw his heart in order to understand what it was going through once this affair began and dragged him into the world of feeling, you know? There were strict rules, if you like, that I applied to myself. And when you're given such a bold and visual universe



*Anna Karenina* opens in theatres November 30. HANDOUT

to play in, such as the one that Joe created for us, that can sometimes be very straightforward. You apply them, you stick to them and you hope that people find something whole and real in it.

**Can you give me some examples of those rules?**

I liked the idea that he followed only straight lines. Everything stayed together. I tried to almost minimize use of facial expressions. I didn't want him to raise his voice.

So there were scenes of huge emotion and anger, but I think if you listen he never raises his voice once. And there's a stillness to him — apart from the knuckle-cracking, which is his sort of one expression of irritation and frustration.

## Exclusively online

- Watch. Metro's Ned Ehrbar chat with Jude Law at [metronews.ca/scene](http://metronews.ca/scene)



**That became terrifying by the end of the movie.**

Did it? Someone said to me, yeah, yesterday they thought that when I cracked my knuckles I was going to hit her. I was like, this guy is barely alive. He's not about to hit his wife.

**Were you actually cracking your knuckles, or was that all foley?**

I was initially. Take four, they weren't making much noise, so a lot of it is foley.

**Well, you have to let them build back up again.**  
That's right.

# MATT MAYS

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# Dealing with the pressures of young fame

**Twilight.** With the release of the final film, the stars look back on how the personal costs of fame have affected them

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson sit side by side on a sofa at the Four Seasons hotel, discussing the end of the five-film project that made them famous and brought them together.

Twilight rocketed both to superstardom, and their real-life romance only propelled them further. With Friday's release of the final film in the franchise, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2*, the young actors bid farewell to the worldwide fantasy sensation, but not to the tabloid attention they garner wherever they go.

Dedicated Twi-Hards were devastated when Stewart admitted in July to cheating on Pattinson in a "momentary indiscretion" with her married *Snow White* and the *Huntsman* director. Bella and Edward, er, Stewart and Pattinson briefly split, which not



Taylor Lautner, left, Kristen Stewart, Stephenie Meyer, and Robert Pattinson get to go back to a normal life as *Twilight* ends. MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

only threatened to jeopardize marketing for the final *Twilight* film, but unraveled the real-life element of the vampire love story.

Now reunited, the pair finish each other's sentences during a recent interview as they talk about how much their lives have changed since the first *Twilight* movie was released in 2008.

"After the first one, I mean, it's a different world you're living in," says Pattinson, 26.

"Also, we're at that stage of life when things are shifting anyway," adds Stewart, 22, who was just 17 when she first played Bella Swan.

Global fame makes growing up challenging, they say, acknowledging they've be-

come more insular.

"It's a really weird thing because you kind of have to hide," Pattinson says, "and hiding really destroys the thing which, for one thing..."

Stewart interjects: "That fuels you as an actor."

"Yeah. It destroys your fuel," he continues, "and also it destroys — you get to the point where you start to lose

interest in things because you spend so much time..."

"Guarding," Stewart says.

"Yeah, and that's your world," Pattinson says. "Your world gets smaller. There's a massive contraction. And the weirdest thing is the more you contract it, the more the (public) interest goes up. It's so crazy. There's no way around it. You're either on

## Quoted

**"Your world gets smaller. There's a massive contraction."**

Robert Pattinson  
Talking about the price of fame.

a 24-7 reality-TV show, or people think you should be."

"No, it's hilarious," Stewart says, not looking like she finds it very funny. "Either way, people are like, 'Ugh. Famewhores.'"

But she has wanted every *Twilight* film to be successful and knows it's not popular to complain about the personal costs of fame.

Director Bill Condon, who began working with Stewart, Pattinson and Taylor Lautner in 2010, says the young megastars understand the pressures of the spotlight.

"They appreciated the good stuff about it, they were able to kind of glide through the stuff that wasn't so good, and, really, they're three very grounded human beings who really just, I have to say, matured into better versions of themselves," Condon said.

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# Blond gets a bang out of starring on hit nerd show

## Funny, not a dummy.

Kaley Cuoco discusses her early life and career, her hit show and why she will always be a comedy gal at heart

"I know this sounds like it's not true," says Kaley Cuoco, "but as huge as the show is, it's just part of my life."

The *Big Bang Theory* is huge all right. Now in its sixth season (airing Thursdays on CBS at 8 p.m. EST), it reigns as TV's hottest sitcom.

As virtually every viewer knows by now, *Big Bang* centres on a gaggle of geeky Cal Tech scientists, chief among them Sheldon (Jim Parsons) and Leonard (Johnny Galecki), apartment mates who, by great good sitcom fortune, live across the hall from Penny,

## Run-of-the-mill, non-brain

"She's obviously not book-smart but she's street smart and good-hearted and can make fun of herself. The producers never made her ditzy. Maybe she doesn't always get what the guys are talking about. But in that way she represents most of the world."

Kaley Cuoco, on her character Penny

played by Cuoco. Penny aspires to be an actress but pays the rent by waiting tables at a Cheesecake Factory.

Unlike the boys, Penny is no genius. But neither is she a dumb blonde, which is key to the genius of *Big Bang*.

"She's obviously not book-smart," says Cuoco, "but she's street smart and good-hearted and can make fun of herself. The producers never made her ditzy. Maybe she doesn't always get what the guys are talking about. But in that way she represents most of the world."

It was pretty smart to make Penny the "normal" character through whom the audience can enter the abstruse, brainy realm the guys occupy. At the same time, sexy Penny presides as a uni-

versal object of desire. Cuoco is totally up to the task of playing such a gal. During a recent mid-afternoon interview, she is hearty, self-possessed, comfortably glam — and funny.

*Big Bang* co-creator Chuck Lorre, who snagged Cuoco for the show, agrees. "Kaley was born to the form.... There's an instinctive thing with comedy that some people have — an elegance and gracefulness, where no effort is apparent."

But there's effort for Cuoco, and on the job it pushes her to question everything.

"How could it not?" she says. "I also constantly think I'm fat and hate my teeth. But I've gotten better over the years." She smiles, revealing nothing remotely wrong with those teeth. "It's going to be fine." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Portrait of the actress as a young girl

Cuoco talked about her dad, a real estate agent who has weathered tough times, and her stay-at-home mom in Southern California.

emotional, 'cause I remember we could never afford that. The show has been the hugest blessing."

- During her childhood, they often had to cut corners.
- "This year, I'm hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas with, like, 25 people at my house — I can do that now." Her voice starts to tremble and her eyes moisten. "It's

- Cuoco grew up happy to be the centre of attention. "I was always very silly and never took myself seriously," she recalls.

## Working with John Ritter

## Salad days

Kaley Cuoco landed a role in a 1992 TV film starring Donald Sutherland. She played Maureen McCormick in the 2000 TV film *Growing Up Brady*. Along the way, she landed jobs in lots of episodic shows.

Discouragement, hope

GETTY IMAGES



Kaley Cuoco says she was never one to take herself too seriously, a trait that has proved very useful in her role as Penny on *Big Bang Theory*. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

But by 2002, she was feeling discouraged. She hadn't worked in a year. Then her agent phoned about a project called *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*. Reluctantly, she auditioned for the part of the older daughter in a household whose loving but bewildered dad would be played by John Ritter.

Though it turned into a hit for ABC

its first season, *8 Simple Rules* is remembered mainly as the final project of the beloved Ritter, who died abruptly early in its second year. The show pushed on through a third season, but it never overcame Ritter's tragic absence.

## Remembering Ritter

"I just adored him," she says, unleashing a stream of memories of how much she learned from him.

"He'd put a potato chip on his shoulder and go, 'Do I have a chip on my shoulder?' And we would just crack up! Working with him showed me that I loved sitcoms," she goes on.

## Silly girl

"I love silliness. That's who I am at heart, and I know I can do it. If my career path takes me elsewhere, that's great. But comedy is my forte." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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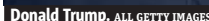
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### Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie



Left to right: A wine-soaked pout from Chanel's new holiday campaign, Rihanna's must-copy dramatic lip at Victoria's Secret and burgundy looks nailed by Naomie Harris and Sara Blomqvist.



# Burgundy boom

**Beauty.** Shades of Merlot and oxblood are a runway-endorsed beauty trend. But it was Rihanna's recent performance at the Victoria's Secret show that has us really craving a dark lip.

ROMINA  
MCGUINNESS  
life@metronews.ca

**Choose the shade to best flatter your skin tone**

This bit of advice will keep you from looking like a washed out Goth. "If you have very light

skin, avoid a dark burgundy. It's too heavy on the face," says makeup guru Tanya Burr, who is most known for her YouTube tutorials on how to re-create celebrity looks.

"People with olive complexions can pull off darker shades because it won't be such a shock against the skin. And for dark skin, vibrant shades of burgundy, such as MAC's lip-stick in Rebel, are most flattering," she adds.

**Avoid textures that are too matte or too glossy**

It's not just the shade of burgundy you need to get right, but the texture. "Completely matte, dark lipsticks look too heavy," Burr says. "And ones that are too glossy are really hard to work with because they

end up all over your teeth." Go for a satin, creamy finish for the best results.

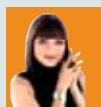
**Balance a heavy lip with a subtle, smoky eye**

Balance is the operative word here. "Because burgundy lips are so heavy, you don't want to go full-on, applying lots of dark eye makeup," Burr says. "On the other hand, I wouldn't wear a naked eye either because otherwise the eyes and the lips will be really unbalanced. Don't think, 'I'll just put on mascara.' You'll have no definition on the eyes and be all lip," she adds. Instead, she recommends trying a subtle, soft brown smoky eye as a way to round out the drama of the lip.

## Shades of red

		
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Nintendo Wii U — \$299.99 and up.



# Game ON

HOLIDAY 2012



gift guide

Below, clockwise, from top left: PS Vita — \$249 and up; Gunnar Technology Eyewear — \$79.99; Skylanders Giants: Starter pack — \$74.99; Kinect — \$109.99; Pulse Wireless Stereo Headset: Elite Edition — \$149.99.

## The best buys for the gamer on your list

MIKE YAWNEY  
For Metro

Since the early '80s, video game consoles have always been big sellers around the holidays. This year is no different.

The competition between Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft continues to heat up. Here is some of the best gaming gear you can give.

### Nintendo Wii U — \$299.99 and up

While it looks very similar to the Wii, the Wii U is a brand new console. With beefed up hardware and intense graphical power, this will be the first Nintendo console to feature HD graphics. What really sets it apart is the new GamePad controller. As well as traditional buttons, the GamePad features a 6.2-inch touchscreen, stylus, accelerometer, gyroscope, Near-Field Technology, front facing camera and microphone. Nintendo promises to introduce new styles of gameplay never seen before. More importantly,



when mom and dad want to watch TV, the Wii U console will stream the game to the screen on the GamePad so everyone remains happy. The Wii U is also backwards compatible with nearly all Wii games and controllers.

### PS Vita — \$249 and up

Playstation takes portable gaming to the next level with the PS Vita. This handheld console features a vibrant five-inch touchscreen display, dual analog sticks, motion sensors, stereo speakers and two cameras. Surf the web, video chat with friends or challenge them to a game online via Wi-Fi or 3G. A rear touchpad introduces unique elements of gameplay not

seen on any other handheld console.

### Kinect — \$109.99

It's easy to dismiss video games as being just for kids, but Microsoft's Kinect for the Xbox 360 is so intuitive, even adults will have fun. The Kinect sensor uses a camera to actually put you in the game. There is no controller, just you. All your movements are shown on screen, which makes it perfect for dance or fitness games. Whether it's for fitness or fun, Kinect opens up new possibilities.

### Pulse Wireless Stereo Headset: Elite Edition — \$149.99

Play games late at night without waking up the family. This high-end wireless headset works exclusively with Playstation consoles. Enjoy 7.1 virtual surround sound and crystal clear voice chat thanks to the noise-cancelling microphone. These headphones can also connect to many different mobile devices with an included cable.

### Gunnar Technology Eyewear — \$79.99

Eye strain can become a ser-

ious problem for gamers, especially those who play on PC monitors. Gunnar glasses are designed to increase screen contrast while blocking blue light, resulting in decreased eye fatigue and dryness. Those who use them swear by them. Available in a number of different styles.



### Skylanders Giants: Starter pack — \$74.99

The video game that magically brings toys to life. Place Skylanders figurines onto



the magic portal and watch as they come to life on your TV. Players build up their characters to unlock new powers. Figurines remember all in-game experiences so it doesn't matter if you are playing at home or at a friend's house, your character never loses its abilities once they're unlocked. Figurines are sold individually and are cross-compatible with all major consoles, including Nintendo's 3DS.

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# The hottest toys for kids

HEATHER  
BUCHAN  
For Metro

Here's a roundup of five of the hottest kids toys as well as a few stocking stuffer ideas that are sure to raise the holiday spirits of every child on your gift list.

## LeapPad2 Explorer

Based on the award-



winning LeapPad1, this tablet made especially for little people (ages three to nine years old) features front and back cameras, two video recorders, 4GB of memory and a library of hundreds of learning games, eBooks, videos, music and much more. The Gameboy-like portable unit focuses on educational gaming. Comes pre-installed with a music player and a few creativity apps. \$109.99. leapfrog.com

## Furby

That furry and famous kids' pal is back and better equipped for a generation of tech-savvy kids. Furby is interactive: You can feed it, speak to it, tickle it, play music for it and it will react with varying emotions. But how you treat Furby will shape its person-

The LeapPad2 Explorer, \$109.99, available at leapfrog.com.

ality. Aside from capacitive sensors in its head, stomach, back and sides that react to touching, inside Furby's yellow beak is a red tongue, that, when pressed, starts Furby chewing. Available in 10 colours. \$70. Ages six and older. Hasbro.ca

## Lollipop Duet Stage Microphone

Little singers can belt out their favourite tunes with this rockin' stage mic. Featuring a handheld microphone with a height-adjustable stand along with a headset mic, so two kids can share the spotlight at once. The microphone can be connected to an iPod, MP3 or CD player so little singers get a real surround sound effect. Disco Lights and applause sound effects are sure to delight wannabe Canadian Idols. \$39.95. Ages four and older. Mastermindtoy.com

## The Art Creativity Book

Featuring games, puzzles, stencils, sticker sheets and an illustrated gatefold page for sticker decorating as well as pull-out art paper and art projects to complete, this softcover book is not only

an educational tool but will provide hours of artistic fun. \$14.99. Ages six and older. Mastermindtoys.com

## Spy Case

This kit contains everything a little super sleuth needs to complete an investigation. Contained within the sleek black nylon case: Binoculars, a magnifying glass, fingerprint powder, brush, flashlight, secret marker pen set, and a spy guide. \$24.95. Ages six and older. Chapters.indigo.ca/toys

And don't forget these stocking stuffers:

## Magic School Bus Slime and Polymer Lab

Let kids conduct cool experiments on things like milk and snow. \$40. Ages five and older. Scholarschoice.ca

## Rory's Story Cubes

Just roll the dice and tell a story. \$10. Ages eight and older. Gameright.com

## Paper Bag Monsters

Peel, stick and glue stickers and paper shapes to five paper bags to create a cool monster. \$11.95. Ages three and older. Alextoys.com



The famous and furry Furby is back and better equipped for tech-savvy kids this holiday season. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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# Let someone else host your party

**Venue.** Top five reasons for hosting a soiree at a restaurant this season

LEE  
ROMAN  
For Metro

Brace yourself. With Christmas only a few weeks away, the biggest party season of them all is almost here.

If you are the person in the neighbourhood, at the office, or on the hockey team who is always the one hosting the party, guess what? You can still be the "hostess/host with the mostess" even if you decide to hold your festive fête at a venue other than your home.

If the idea seems a little bit non-traditional, it shouldn't. Each year, more and more people are choosing to host their soirees at restaurants.

And why shouldn't they? There are several good reasons to trade the house party for the restaurant party. Here are just a few:

**1** The restaurant manager becomes your own personal party planner who has the power to take care of absolutely everything for you — from menu and bar



Try holding your festive fête at a venue other than your home, such as at a restaurant. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

selections to decorations and music. And the nice thing is that you are still in control, but without all the time and effort spent shopping, preparing and serving.

**2** No house cleaning required. Yes, it's true. There isn't a mad scramble before the party to make sure your house is immaculate.

**3** The same goes post-party. Imagine, no dishes or linen to wash, no vacuuming and no carpet cleaning to contend with. After all, you have better, more enjoyable things to do during the holidays.

**4** Taxis are usually more accessible and easier to find. If they aren't, the restau-

rant hostess can make a quick call to ensure your guests don't have to wait long.

**5** You actually get to enjoy your own party. When you host at your own home, you probably find that you spend so much time seeing to the needs of your guests that you don't have the time to partake in the wonderful food or the sparkling conversation. With a restaurant-hosted gathering, you get to experience the festivities worry-free.

If you are thinking of planning a party away from your home, just a word of advice ... start scoping out and contacting restaurants now. Happy party planning!

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# Upgrade your panini sandwich with unique Roasted Beet Bread

## Roasted Beet Bread



This recipe makes two loaves. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

### Night Before

1. In a large bowl, combine these ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit on the counter for 12 to 16 hours.

### Day Of

1. To "night before" mixture, add pureed beets and any juice, whole-wheat flour and instant yeast. Mix with a wooden spoon till smooth. Let sit, uncovered, for 10 minutes. Add thyme and salt, mix until smooth.

2. Start to add bread flour. Once it becomes too hard to mix in the bowl, turn dough onto a flat surface and knead for 10 minutes. This will be a sticky dough, so be careful not to add too much flour. Add just enough to prevent dough from really sticking to your fingers when kneading.

3. Add a little olive oil to a clean large bowl. Place dough in bowl and turn over a few times to very

lightly coat all sides of the dough with oil. Cover with plastic wrap. Let dough rise for 1 1/2 hours or till double in bulk. Turn onto a flat surface. Cut dough in half and mould each half into desired shape.

4. Place shaped dough on a piece of parchment paper sprinkled with cornmeal. Spray tops with a little oil spray and cover with plastic wrap for 1 hour or till double in bulk.

5. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F) and place baking stone on centre rack. Place a cast-iron skillet (filled with lava rocks if you have them) on oven floor or on lowest rack. When loaves have doubled, sprinkle with a little whole-wheat flour and slash an X on top of each.

6. Place in hot oven directly on baking stone. Pour about 250 ml (1 cup) boiling water into hot skillet and close oven door.

7. Bake for 30 to 35 min-

### Ingredients

#### Night before

- 250 ml (1 cup) bread flour
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) instant yeast
- 250 ml (1 cup) lukewarm water

#### Day of

- 250 ml (1 cup) pureed roasted beets plus any juice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) stone-ground whole-wheat flour, plus extra for sprinkling
- 3 ml (3/4 tsp) instant yeast
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh thyme
- 8 ml (1 3/4 tsp) salt
- 675 ml (2 3/4 cups) bread flour (approx)
- Olive oil
- Cornmeal

utes or until loaves sound hollow when tapped on bottom. (Or stick a meat thermometer into the centre of loaves; when it reads 82 C/180 F they're ready.)

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THEKNEADFORBREAD.COM

### Ingredients

#### Night before

- 175 ml (3/4 cup) bread flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) lukewarm water

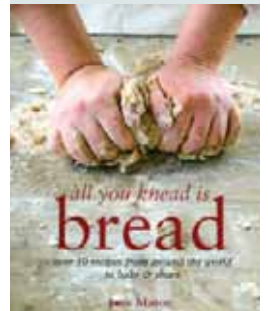
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) instant yeast

#### Day of:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) oil
- 500 ml (2 cups) chopped fresh spinach
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) lukewarm water

## Cookbook of the Week

### Everything you knead to know



Jane Mason's All You Knead is Bread aims to inspire readers to start baking by explaining techniques, demystifying the process with step-by-step photos and presenting a huge variety of breads.

Among the 50 recipes in the book are flavours from all over the world that will go with every meal and can be served as snacks and desserts as well.

Spanning wheat and the myriad of other grains used from country to country, All You Knead is Bread features breads such as pita, soda bread, cinnamon buns, cheese rolls, rye bread and more. METRO

# Spinach and feta flavours

The flavour and texture of this savoury bread is amazing, combining rye, whole-wheat and white flour.

### Night Before

1. In a large bowl, combine these ingredients and beat until well combined. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for 12 to 16 hours.

### Day Of

1. In a saucepan, place 15 ml (1 tbsp) oil and set on stove to warm. Add spinach and sauté till cooked, stirring continuously so spin-

ach doesn't brown. Sauté 2 mins., place on paper towels. Use hands to press down on spinach to squeeze out liquid and set aside.

2. Combine "night before" mix with lukewarm water. Mix with wooden spoon. Add rye and whole-wheat flours and mix till smooth. Add salt and instant yeast and stir until well blended. Let mix sit, uncovered, 10 mins.

3. Add bread flour, about 125 ml (1/2 cup) at a time,

until mixture becomes too hard to mix. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead in remaining flour. Use just enough flour to make dough slightly sticky. Knead dough 10 mins. Let dough rest for about 5 mins. Flatten dough a little and knead in cooked spinach and feta cheese until incorporated. (Don't worry if spinach is clumped together; it will break up during kneading.)

4. Put a little oil in a clean, large bowl. Place dough in bowl and turn over till light-

ly coated on all sides. Cover with plastic wrap and let rest for 2 hours or till double in bulk.

5. Turn dough out onto a flat surface and cut in half. Shape into 2 round loaves and place on cornmeal-covered piece of parchment paper. Sprinkle top of dough with little whole-wheat flour. Cover loaves with plastic wrap and let rest for 1 hour.

6. About 45 mins. before baking, place a baking stone

in oven and a cast-iron skillet on the floor of the oven or on lowest rack. (If using baking sheet rather than baking stone, do not place baking sheet into oven beforehand.) Heat oven to 220 C (425 F). Score tops of loaves and place in oven. Pour 250

ml (1 cup) boiling water into hot cast-iron skillet; close oven door.

7. Bake 35 mins. or till loaves sound hollow when tapped on bottom. THE CANADIAN PRESS/THEKNEADFORBREAD.COM

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# Winterize your home and help cut costs

Whether you own or rent your home, there are easy things you can do as the cold weather creeps in to winterize and cut costs.

These simple jobs make a big difference in the long run. You can find more helpful home tips in Rehab Addict, where host Nicole Curtis restores historic homes to their former glory.

## Change the furnace filter

After months of use, your furnace filter becomes clogged with dust and dirt, making it less efficient.

Buying a new furnace filter is inexpensive and only takes a few minutes to replace.

## Refrigerator coils

Often forgotten in your home cleaning, the refrigerator coils that cool your fridge easily attract dust.

The dust that builds up acts as an insulator, making it difficult for the coils to perform efficiently.

## Programmable thermostat

You can easily reduce heat usage by installing a programmable thermostat.

This will automatically lower the heat in your home for times that you are out of the house, or while you are sleeping.

## Fluorescent bulbs

A large part of every home's



A programmable thermostat can help minimize winter costs.

ISTOCK IMAGES

energy bill comes from lighting, especially in the winter months where the days are shorter so lights need to be on longer.

Switching your bulbs to compact fluorescents can help compensate for the increased energy.

## Chimney damper

Before the depth of winter hits, ensure that the damper on your chimney is tightly closed.

This is cost-free and takes very little time, but can be a big way to reduce heat loss in your home.

## Caulk windows

Test your windows for air leaks and ensure they are properly caulked to avoid any heat loss.

Additionally, you can pursue

removable caulk to completely seal your windows shut during the winter months, and then remove it when spring reappears.

## Additional insulation

Check the insulation in your attic — it should be covering the floor joists.

If it does not, it may be time to invest in additional insulation to ensure you are not losing heat through the top of your house.

This can be done yourself with advice from a local home renovation store, or you can hire professionals to install this and reap the benefits over time.

**REHAB ADDICT AIRS BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES THURSDAYS AT 10 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA**

# GMOs: The history behind genetically modified foods

## What is GMO?

-Cory of Thunder Bay, Ont.



QUEEN OF GREEN  
Tovah Paglaro  
green@metronews.ca

GMOs — or genetically modified organisms — are plants or animals modified through the gene-splicing techniques of biotechnology. GMOs and GE foods refer to the same thing. They are foods created by merging DNA from different species.

The first commercially available GMO crop (the Flavr Savr tomato) was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1994.

Since then, GE varieties of corn, soya, sugar beets and canola have become common in Canada. In addition to locally produced crops, GE varieties of cottonseed oil, papaya, squash and milk products are imported from the U.S. into Canada.

In a mere 20 years, GMO ingredients have made their way into most of the processed foods available on Canadian

grocery shelves. Apples, potatoes and wheat are all in the lineup for approval.

When first introduced, GMO crops were touted as the answer to world hunger. The argument was that by developing pesticide-and-herbicide-resistant crops, farmers would be able to increase their yields and decrease their costs.

This has not proven to be the case. Instead, bugs and weeds have become increasingly resistant to the widespread applications of these chemicals, leading to increased use of both. More spraying means more costs for farmers, more damage to the environment and more health concerns.

On the flip side, it means more product purchased from the seed producer. The companies that develop and patent GMO seeds are the same companies that develop and patent pesticides and herbicides to which the unique seeds are resistant.

Monsanto is the largest seed company in the world and owns about 86 per cent of GMO seeds sown globally. It is also

the company that produces the herbicide Roundup.

The safety of GMO foods is unproven and a growing body of research connects these foods with health concerns and environmental damage.

For this reason, most developed nations have policies requiring mandatory labelling of GMO foods at the very least, and some have issued bans on GMO food production and imports.

In Canada, we do not require GMO labelling. Canadians are often unaware that the foods they choose contain GMO ingredients. This right to choice is behind the growing movement to have GMO foods labelled. While environmental and food advocates lobby for labelling, other groups, like the Non-GMO Project, have created voluntary non-GMO certification to promote better consumer information.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidssuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG



## Sick of Colds and Flu? Fight Back with Plant Sterols!

If you find yourself running for cover every time someone coughs, or missing days of work due to chronic colds and flu, then your immune system may need help.

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Plant sterols are essential to the body, but like vitamin C, the body cannot synthesize them, they have to be ingested. However, due to the modern processing of food, today's diets tend to be deficient in sterols.

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# FORD TOUGH

## PICKUP TRUCKS HAVE NOW BECOME FASHION STATEMENTS

Trucks were once rolling toolboxes that you filled to the brim with shovels and bricks. Honestly, the idea of filling a new F-150 with bricks, or scuffing up the box in any way, makes us a little queasy, even if that's sort of the point of a pickup.

Many are pampered playthings that can cost more than a Lexus. The simple fact is that all of the domestic pickups are great trucks, so the automakers need to appeal to your sense of style.

For 2013, Ford is betting that a sharper-looking F-150 and reintroducing the full-lux Limited trim will bring even more customers through the door. All models get new trim-specific front grilles, bumpers and wheel designs, but the Limited sure is a head-turner. Available only as a SuperCrew four-door cab, the body-colour mouldings, brightwork and 22-inch wheels are set off by segment-first high-intensity-discharge headlights.

The interior is highlighted by heated and cooled red and black leather seats, aluminum trim and piano black accents that complement the new MyFord Touch screen on the dash. Limiteds are exclusively powered by the popular 3.5-litre "EcoBoost" twin-turbo V6 with 365 horsepower. Those wanting traditional V8 power are spoiled, with 5.0-litre or 6.2-litre options readily available in most other trims. In fact, the 411-horsepower, 6.2-litre V8 is standard on the F-150 SVT Raptor 4x4, which is inspired by Ford's participation in off-road desert racing.

Standard gear includes special shock

absorbers that stiffen as they compress to keep the truck from bottoming out or becoming too tippy while cornering. That's a good idea, since there's nearly 30 centimetres more of suspension travel in front and about 34 in back. The giant

35-inch-tall all-terrain rubber has been mounted to 17-inch wheels that are positioned farther outboard from the fenders to a point where the Raptor's width has been increased by more than seven inches compared to a standard F-150.

What, not big enough or tough enough? Not content with having the most powerful and probably the most capable heavy-duty pickup around, for

2013 Ford is aiming its Super Duty trucks toward the higher end of the market (told ya). A fully loaded GMC Sierra HD 3500 with the ubiquitous Denali package starts well north of \$60,000 and climbs higher very quickly. Ford's reply is adding a Platinum trim to the SD line with unique styling, different 20-inch wheels, chrome slathered everywhere, while the inside features wood trim and high-grain leather cover nearly every surface.

Niceties include standard power-adjustable pedals, a rear-view camera, remote start and power telescoping mirrors.

— wheelbasemedia.com



Ford F-150



Ford Expedition



Ford Escape



Ford Explorer

## BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

EXPEDITION: FULL-SIZE SUV; \$48,750

EXPLORER: MID-SIZE SUV; \$31,300

F-150: FULL-SIZE PICKUP; \$21,550

F-SERIES SD: FULL-SIZE PICKUP; \$37,050

TRANSIT CONNECT: MULTI-PURPOSE VAN; \$26,850



Ford Flex



Ford F-150 SVT Raptor



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Land Rover Evoque



Land Rover Range Rover Sport

## TRIMMED DOWN RANGE ROVER

Trying to coax better fuel economy out of the old Range Rover would be like trying to squeeze blood from a 2,500-kilogram stone. It was just too big and heavy.

But how do you liposuction a Range Rover and still call it a Range Rover? You don't. You just build the whole thing out of aluminum.

The new Range Rover shares a similar look with the outgoing model, but has dropped 320 kilograms, even though it's slightly larger overall. Credit an aluminum body structure that's nearly 40 per cent lighter than the steel-bodied 2012 version.

That should make a huge difference in fuel consumption (the official numbers aren't out yet), although there's only one engine so far: A supercharged 5.0 V8 that generates 510 ground-pounding horses.

The engine is shared with Jaguar — no shock here — and just like the cat's big sedans, it's backed by a new eight-speed automatic transmission. The four-wheel-drive system comes with hill-start assist and gradient acceleration control, which can help you negotiate steep and severe slopes off-road (you're going to take my Range Rover where?). The system, called

Terrain Response 2, will also suggest when to shift into low range, or when to adjust the air-spring suspension for greater ground clearance.

Also included is an array safety and convenience hardware, including a power split tailgate, heated windshield, and digital surround-sound, to eight airbags and voice-activated navigation. You can also expect a full-size panoramic sunroof, exotic 21-inch wheels and virtually every power-operated, luxury-centred and electronic safety-focused feature you care to name (how about four-zone climate

### BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

**EVOQUE: ENTRY-LUXURY SPORT UTILITY;**  
\$48,300; \$49,400 (COUPE)  
**LR2: COMPACT SPORT UTILITY;** \$41,200  
**LR4: MID-SIZE SPORT UTILITY;** \$60,750  
**RANGE ROVER: FULL-SIZE SPORT UTILITY;**  
\$114,000 (EST.)  
**RANGE ROVER SPORT: FULL-SIZE SPORT**  
**UTILITY;** \$74,900

control, or door openings that close and lock themselves).

— wheelbasemedia.com

## BEAUTIFUL ROLLING SCULPTURE

### HYUNDAI SANTA FE

Some of the hottest styling comes from the sketch pads at Hyundai. Just look at the new Santa Fe. Hyundai has gone from building cars that people on a budget had to buy, to beautiful rolling sculpture that you just have to buy.

The Santa Fe wagon is available in five- and seven-passenger sizes. The shorter-wheelbase five-passenger Santa Fe Sport arrives first, followed by the longer (by 22 centimetres) seven-passenger Santa Fe in early calendar 2013. The bigger Santa Fe is heftier than the Sport by more than 150 kilograms, which explains why it's only available with a 290-horsepower, 3.3-litre V6 that replaces the previously optional 274-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6.

Conversely, the Sport comes with a base 190-horsepower, 2.4-litre four-cylinder, or optional 264-horsepower



Hyundai Santa Fe

2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder. In all cases the only transmission is a six-speed automatic with manual shift controls.

Hyundai will let you add its latest all-wheel-drive setup with any Santa Fe you select. The system includes Torque Vectoring Corner Control (TVCC) that monitors driving conditions and can instantaneously direct the correct amount of power or braking force to any single wheel.

TVCC assists in slippery conditions

### BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

**SANTA FE: COMPACT SUV;** \$28,250  
**TUCSON: COMPACT SUV;** \$21,750

and provides added precision when negotiating turns.

The Santa Fe features plenty of

standard content plus unexpected treats, including Driver Selectable Steering Mode with Normal, Comfort (reduces steering effort by 10 per cent) and Sport (increases effort by the same amount) settings.

Turbo models add performance suspension components (stiffer shocks and stabilizer bars), 19-inch wheels (17s are standard), fancier gauge cluster, push-button start and heated front seats.

— wheelbasemedia.com





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# JEEP'S RUGGED WRANGLER

Things carry on pretty much as normal for Jeep for the 2013 model year, but with plenty of fine-tuning going on at the Wrangler end of the building. The legendary off-roader enjoys a hard-core following; people who fearlessly dare to use these rugged rascals the way they're intended.

Of course, not everyone goes boulder-hopping and canyon-crawling in their Wranglers (the Jeep, not the jeans), but both groups will appreciate the newly designed seats with improved bolstering in front and added support when the road or trail gets rough. The back seat of the four-door Unlimited model, as well as the soft top, both now fold more easily using, amazingly, just one hand.

Finally, both two- and four-door Wranglers can be ordered with a premium top that is reportedly easier to clean and its three layers add a degree of noise insulation. Jeep claims the lid is also easier to fasten. (Yes, we had to read that twice, too.)

Unchanged is the Chrysler-designed 285-horsepower V6 that connects to



either a six-speed manual transmission or optional five-speed automatic. The combo provides for a 1/100 km rating of 12.7 city and 9.3 highway (Unlimited models fare a little worse).

Base Sport, Sport, Sport S, Sahara and Rubicon trim levels continue; the first two feature part-time four-wheel-

drive with optional limited-slip rear differential. The tough-customer Rubicon uses the Off-Road Rock-Trac unit with its extra-low-range gearing, front/rear-locking differentials for greater agility and 32-inch off-road rubber.

As for the Grand Cherokee, talk about a Swiss Army Knife. The focus

## BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

COMPASS: COMPACT WAGON; \$20,600  
GRAND CHEROKEE: MID-SIZE SUV; \$39,800;  
\$59,000 (SRT8)  
PATRIOT: COMPACT WAGON; \$19,600  
WRANGLER: COMPACT/MID-SIZE SUV; \$24,000

for 2012 was on the go-fast, corner-hard 470-horsepower SRT8, while this year, almost as reminder of the real point of this vehicle, it's all about off-roading. The new-for-2013 Trailhawk, for serious boulder bashing, includes Kevlar-reinforced Goodyear "Silent Armor" tires, additional off-road undercarriage protection, rear electronic limited-slip differential, Quadra-Drive II four-wheel-drive with air suspension for V8 models (adjusts ride height over a 11.4-centimetre range to a maximum 28 centimetres of ground clearance) and an upgraded traction-control system.

— wheelbasemedia.com

# HARD-CHARGING RAM



If fuel economy, or lack thereof, killed the mid-sized Dakota, the Ram Boys aren't about to let that happen to the Ram 1500.

Its one big weak spot, fuel consumption, has been rectified for 2013 with Chrysler's ever-popular 3.6-litre V6 that bumps the ancient 3.7-litre V6 out of the engine bay. Horsepower climbs 42 per cent to 305 from 215 and fuel performance similarly improves to 11.4 l/100 km city and 7.8 highway, compared to 15.0/10.0. That's a huge difference.

The Ram also gets a new eight-speed automatic transmission that will also be attached to the 395-horsepower, 5.7-litre "Hemi" V8. This engine shut down four of its eight cylinders when not needed, such as at under light-load conditions or when headed downhill. A dash-mounted rotary shifter replaces the traditional column and console shifter. Returning is the 4.7-litre V8 rated at 310 horsepower. It's linked to a six-speed automatic.

For 2013, Rams get further fuel-

reduction assistance including stop-start technology that turns off the engine at rest, then instantly fires it up again once the brake pedal is released. Electric power steering cuts parasitic power losses. Subtle aerodynamic body improvements and active grille shutters help, too. Optional is an air suspension with load levelling and five height settings, one of which drops the body at highway speeds by 1.5 centimetres to cut the wind a bit better. Finally, a new thermal manage-

## BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

RAM 1500: FULL-SIZE PICKUP; \$28,500  
RAM HD: FULL-SIZE HEAVY-DUTY ONE- AND  
THREE-QUARTER PICKUPS; \$32,000

ment system is designed to quickly get the Ram's crankcase oil and other fluids up to operational temperatures, which assists in conserving gas.

The Ram 2500 and 3500 series pickups have upped the stakes with the optional Cummins turbo-diesel that's available in bad, badder and baddest grades for 2013. The tamest of the 6.7-litre inline six-cylinder powerplants is rated at 350 horsepower and 660 pound-feet of torque, while the intermediate version pushes those numbers up to 370 horsepower and 800 pound-feet. For maximum thrust and grunt, the 385-horse unit lays down a mind-numbing 850 pound-feet of torque.

The Cummins can be matched to a six-speed manual transmission (the only shift-it-yourself in its class), or a six-speed automatic. The result is a truck that can haul and tow an inordinate amount of whatever you have; up to 7,730 kilograms of trailer weight and up to 820 kilograms of tongue weight using a conventional Class V hitch. — wheelbasemedia.com





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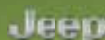
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A Mooseheads fan holds up a sign earlier this season at the Metro Centre. QMJHL attendance is on the upswing and finding a pair of tickets in the lower bowl of the Herd's arena on game days can be no easy task. METRO FILE

## Mooseheads keep the turnstiles humming

**Following the Herd.** QMJHL club off to a flying start on the ice and at the box office



**MATTHEW WUEST**

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Metro Centre has been a crowded house for Halifax Mooseheads games so far this season.

Through nine home games, the Mooseheads — first in the QMJHL with a 17-2-0-1 record — have an average attendance of 8,058, up more than 2,000 fans per game from this time last sea-

son. They are believed to be the most well-attended opening nine games in franchise history.

"If I didn't own the team, I'd be buying tickets to watch this team, too," quipped Mooseheads owner Bobby Smith after being informed of the numbers.

Games are so well attended, fans are finding it difficult to get more than a single seat in the lower bowl on game days.

Smith chalks up the increased interest to the team's winning ways and the star power of top 2013 NHL draft prospects Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Zach Fucale.

"There are lots of things

a junior fan would want to come out and see," Smith said. "You've got three guys who are probably going to be first-round picks, you've got a hometown guy (Cole Harbour's MacKinnon) who is one of the stars of the team, and you've got a very good hockey team."

Smith said the increased attendance not only makes the games more fun for fans in the stands, it changes the game on the ice.

"There's no question, it makes it a lot more fun for our players and a lot more fun for the visiting players," Smith said.

"We always see every team's best game when they come to Halifax. It's a great

atmosphere."

Since Smith bought the team in 2003, the Mooseheads had never averaged more than 7,175 through nine games.

Even in 1999-2000, when the Mooseheads set a franchise record for attendance with 8,453 per game, their average through nine contests was 7,979, slightly behind this season.

Although crowds historically increase as the season moves along, Smith stopped short of predicting a new Mooseheads attendance record.

"I don't think we're looking at numbers that high," he said, "but it will be interesting to see."

### QMJHL

#### Mooseheads retain top ranking in CHL

The Halifax Mooseheads are ranked No. 1 in the Canadian Hockey League for a second straight week.

The Mooseheads, who ascended to No. 1 for the first time all season last week, went 1-1 on the road last week and are still first in the QMJHL with a 17-2-0-1 record.

In the rankings released Wednesday, the Mooseheads are ahead of the Western Hockey League's Portland Winterhawks, 16-3-1-0.

The Quebec Remparts (15-4-0-0), Blainville-Boisbriand Armada (15-5-0-2) and Baie-Comeau Drakkar (14-4-0-2) are ranked fifth, sixth and eighth, respectively.

The Rouyn-Noranda Huskies (13-6-0-1) went from eighth last week to honourable mention. They visit the Mooseheads on Friday.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

### NBL Canada

#### Rainmen bolster roster with Quinnet Brown

The Halifax Rainmen signed forward Quinnet Brown on Wednesday and moved guard Eddie Smith to injured reserve.

The six-foot-six Brown was most valuable player of the Premier Basketball League in 2010-11 after averaging 20.5 points and 7.7 rebounds per game with the Quebec Kebs. The Rainmen are back in action on Saturday at home to the Moncton Miracles at 2 p.m. METRO

## Halifax striker sets her sights on NCAA title



Nkem Ezurike with the Michigan Wolverines. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Nkem Ezurike is doing her part to help the Michigan Wolverines inch closer to an NCAA Division I women's soccer championship.

The junior striker from Lower Sackville tied a school record last weekend with a goal in her sixth consecutive game to help the Wolverines beat Central Michigan 2-1 in overtime and advance to the second round of the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2003.

Ezurike's goal in the 95th minute was her sixth game-winner of the season.

"At the start of the year we made our goals and our goal was to get past the first round," Ezurike said. "My freshman year we went to the NCAA and lost and we wanted to do

### Quoted

**"It's exciting to have an opportunity to go far in this tournament."**

Michigan Wolverines forward Nkem Ezurike talks about her team's progression in the NCAA women's soccer tournament.

better this year. It's exciting to have an opportunity to go far in this tournament."

Ezurike, who won a senior women's national championship with Halifax City in 2008 and represented Canada at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup earlier this year, has a team-leading 14 goals in 18 games to give her 34 over three seasons.

She said leaving Nova Sco-

tia to play at the NCAA level has helped her develop as a player.

"Besides playing professionally, playing college is the next best thing to keep improving and maybe one day giving you the opportunity to play for the national team," she said.

The Wolverines, one of 32 teams vying for the NCAA title, are now two wins away from the Elite Eight. They face the Portland Pilots on Friday in University Park, Pa., for a chance to move on to Sunday's third round.

"They're definitely not going to be easy games, but I feel like our team, we have the potential and the skill to get both wins this weekend," she said.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO





Pending physicals, Mark Buehrle, left, Jose Reyes, centre, and Josh Johnson will be Blue Jays after Tuesday night's blockbuster trade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

# Time is now: Jays suddenly a big fish

**Moving up.** Deal makes Toronto a contender in ultra-competitive AL East

Toronto Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos made it clear when the season ended that addressing his team's starting pitching needs would be a top off-season priority.

He delivered on that plan and dramatically changed the look of the franchise with one of the biggest trades in team history.

The deal between the Blue

Jays and Miami Marlins won't get final approval until the players pass physicals. When that happens, Toronto will immediately be considered a contender for the first time since capturing back-to-back World Series titles in 1992 and 1993.

According to various reports, right-hander Josh Johnson, left-hander Mark Buehrle and all-star shortstop Jose Reyes are heading north along with infielder Emilio Bonifacio and catcher John Buck.

Shortstop Yunel Escobar is Miami-bound along with infielder Adeiny Hechavarria, right-hander Henderson Alva-

rez, catcher Jeff Mathis and prospects Anthony DeSclafani, Justin Nicolino and Jake Marisnick.

"It's still got to bear fruit on the field," said Cary Kaplan, president of Mississauga, Ont.-based sports-management company Cosmos Sports. "But I think people feel very happy today — those that are Blue Jays fans — and I think there are people on the fence that will move to the other side."

Johnson, Buehrle and Brandon Morrow provide a deep 1-2-3 punch in the starting rotation. Reyes is a big step up from Escobar, Bonifacio should fill a hole at second base and Buck gives the team an experienced hand behind the plate.

Toronto didn't give up too much from its current roster to make the deal. In Escobar, the Marlins get a mediocre shortstop who fell out of fa-

vour in Toronto after writing an anti-gay slur in Spanish on his eyeball stickers.

Mathis was a decent backup and Alvarez posted middling numbers in 2012, but he could be a stud down the line.

The prospect price was heavy as Hechavarria could develop into a star. DeSclafani, Nicolino and Marisnick also have plenty of potential.

But after years of playing with an eye to the future, this deal appears to show that the Blue Jays' time is now.

The new additions make the club much deeper, but they don't come cheap.

Johnson is owed \$13.75 million US next season, Reyes has \$96 million left on a deal expiring in 2018 and Buehrle has \$52 million remaining on a deal expiring in 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Grizzlies rip win away from Thunder in Oklahoma

Memphis Grizzlies centre Marc Gasol, left, battles Thunder forward Kevin Durant for a rebound in Oklahoma City on Wednesday night. Rudy Gay scored a season-high 28 points and Zach Randolph added 20 points and 11 rebounds before getting ejected along with Kendrick Perkins during a late-game altercation, as the Grizzlies beat the Thunder 107-97.

SUE OGROCKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Lockout

## NHL, NHLPA have no plans to meet

Now the NHL and the locked-out players' association aren't even talking by phone.

With the lockout entering its third month, communications between the sides have come to a halt.

"No, we have not communicated today," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly told The Associated Press on Wednesday in an email. "No meetings scheduled, and no plans to meet."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Olympics

## COC doubles up on financial support

The Canadian Olympic Committee will be almost doubling its financial support for Olympic sports over the next four years with an injection of about \$100 million, president Marcel Aubut said Wednesday.

The \$100 million will go to support both summer and winter events as well as to prepare for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Quoted

"Everybody in the world wants to talk about the Marlins and the fact they're now a triple-A team."

Miami city commissioner Marc Samoff. The attendance-challenged Marlins have antagonized fans yet again by deciding a low-budget team is good enough for their new ballpark.

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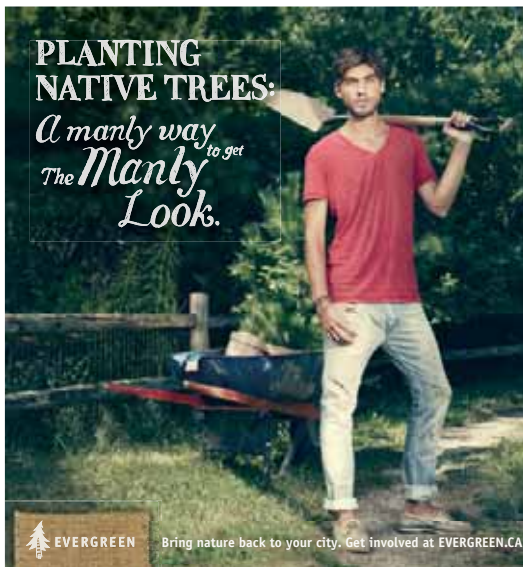
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## Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you allow yourself to get angry, it will distort your judgment and you will make a mistake. Then you'll be angrier than before. Remember: There is a reason for everything that happens in life, even the "bad" things.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

It may seem as if someone you have feelings for is trying to avoid you, but most likely it is your imagination playing tricks. Give them the space they seem to need, and soon they'll be back at your side.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

The more others try to push you in directions you don't want to go, the more you must resist. Also, be careful when exerting yourself physically. The Sun in the wellbeing area of your chart warns you to put your health first.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You have been too soft with someone who has been taking liberties and now you must go to the other extreme and come down on them hard. If you let things continue as they are, chaos will be the result.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You sense that something big is about to happen, something that will change your life for the better. As usual, your instincts are spot on. So, keep your eyes and ears open and be ready to act.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You seem to have rather a lot to say for yourself at the moment, and that's fine. But watch out that you don't say too much over the next 24 hours or you could find you have given up your advantage. Knowledge is power.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

It may seem as if you are losing something valuable, and maybe you are, but there is no point worrying about it. The planets indicate what you have to give up now will be replaced by something much better very soon.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You will be under a lot of pressure today and tomorrow as several issues come to a head at the same time. You will find ways to stay on top of them but schedule yourself a restful weekend. You'll need it!

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

For some reason, you are worked up about something that, nine times out of ten, would not worry you. Remind yourself it is of no great importance. In a matter of hours, it will be forgotten.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Steer clear of a friend's personal affairs today. The planets warn that if you allow yourself to get involved, you will find it almost impossible to get out again. And you'll end up getting most of the blame.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If your reputation is important to you then you will have to defend it today. It seems that someone is determined to undermine your authority and you cannot afford to let that happen. Take the battle to them.

### Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You may think you can get away with anything at the moment but Saturn, the great taskmaster of the zodiac, says otherwise. Think things through carefully before you act and, if in doubt, don't act at all. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Canadian Crossword

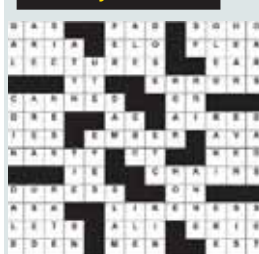
### Across

1. Roseanne's hubby
4. Cooking utensil
7. Healthy
10. The Bold —
12. Pitcher's stat.
13. Family group
14. Break in two
15. Salt (Fr.)
16. Rave's partner
17. Noblemen
20. Deal or — Deal
21. Bible pt.
22. Mended a skirt
25. Dogma
29. Past due
30. Island (Fr.)
31. Bad neighbourhood
34. That Don't Impress Me Much! singer
36. Model Railroad gauge
37. Midwestern state
38. Helmut wearing transports
45. Bird of peace
46. Schnozz ending
47. After midnight
49. — to Avonlea
50. Days of — Lives
51. Nova
52. Fashion designer (abbr.)
53. Mad —
54. Avenues

### Down

1. — and don'ts
2. Siam woman
3. Close by
4. Fly or hornet
5. Chocolate layer cookie
6. Bath powder
7. Level
8. Ziering and McShane
9. Dynamite (abbr.)

## Yesterday's Crossword



## What's online

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).



## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	1	3	4	6	5	7	2
3	2	4	1	5	7	8	6	9
5	6	7	8	2	9	4	1	3
2	7	5	4	8	1	9	3	6
8	3	9	5	6	2	7	4	1
4	1	8	9	7	3	2	5	6
1	4	6	5	9	5	3	2	7
7	9	3	2	1	4	6	8	5
6	5	2	7	3	8	1	9	4

	1		5		4			8
4			8		9			1
	3			7				6
		9				6		
6	2						3	7
		3				4		
	7			5				2
8			2		6			3
	6		3		7		5	

**Today**

9°/3°

Partly sunny

**Friday**

7°/1°

Cloudy

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